



July 13, 2021

To All New and Returning Students:

I hope you are enjoying your summer. With the advent of the COVID-19 vaccines, we have been fortunate to conduct business without the restrictions we had before the vaccines became available. However, with the recent news of the COVID-19 Delta variant and its spread in Arkansas, we are seeing a resurgence of the virus in a more virulent and easily transmitted mutated form. Unless we have the participation and cooperation of everyone, our efforts to date will have been fruitless. Health officials in Sebastian County and surrounding areas are alarmed at the impending outbreak of the Delta variant and its impact on the local health system. This is not a matter of “if” but “when” the variant will affect our community with the marked increases in both hospitalizations and deaths, a trend line we are already seeing in news reports on a daily basis.

So that we may maintain as safe a campus as possible, we have mandated that all students, both returning and incoming, must be vaccinated by July 30, 2021. While the majority of our students have complied with this requirement, there are some who have not yet complied and others who have refused to comply citing certain personal reasons.

There have been questions regarding how we intend to proceed in the delivery of the curriculum – whether it will be in person or virtually delivered. Our intent is to deliver the curriculum in person. But this is dependent on the cooperation of all students and their participation in receiving the vaccine. Without full participation, in-person delivery may not be possible, and we may need to revert to a virtual delivery of the curriculum, as well as to incorporate all of the COVID restrictions (masks, social distancing, etc.) as we did in AY2020-21.

If you have not yet been vaccinated, we will permit an extension of time to receive the vaccine, provided that you submit an affirmation of intent to receive the vaccine by either August 30, 2021, for the one-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine, or by September 30, 2021, if you elect to receive the two-dose Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. This will be a one-time extension for all students. No further extension will be granted.

If a student fails to receive the vaccine by September 30, 2021, that student will be dismissed for failure to comply with this requirement. There will be no exceptions, unless an exemption request is supported by a well-documented, valid medical justification.

Thank you for helping to make ACHE a safe learning environment for all.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian G. Kim', written in a cursive style.

Brian G. Kim, J.D.
President